



The Fulbright Program in Brief

The flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government, widely known as the Fulbright Program, is designed to “increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.” With this goal as a starting point, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 286,000 participants—chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential — with the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

Program History

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by then-Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State.

Approximately 286,500 “Fulbrighters,” 108,160 from the United States and 178,340 from other countries, have participated in the Program since its inception sixty years ago. The Fulbright Program awards approximately 7,000 new grants annually.

Currently, the Fulbright Program operates in over 155 countries worldwide.

Program Funding

The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation made by the United States Congress to the Department of State. Participating governments and host institutions in foreign countries and in the United States also contribute financially through cost-sharing and indirect support, such as salary supplements, tuition waivers and university housing.

The Congressional appropriation for the Fulbright Program in fiscal year 2007 was \$198.8 million. Foreign governments, through binational commissions or foundations abroad, contributed an additional \$63.2 million directly to the Program.

Program Administration

The Fulbright Program is administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State under policy guidelines established by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB) and in cooperation with a number of private organizations.

The **Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs** develops policies to assure fulfillment of the purposes of the Fulbright Program and administers the Program with the assistance of binational commissions and foundations in 50 countries, U.S. embassies in 100 other countries and a number of cooperating agencies in the United States.

The **J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board**, composed of 12 educational and public leaders appointed by the President of the United States, formulates policies for the administration of the Program, establishes criteria for the selection of candidates and approves candidates nominated for awards.

Binational commissions and foundations abroad propose the annual country programs, which establish the numbers and categories of grants based on input from local institutions. In a country without a commission or foundation, the **Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy** develops and supervises the Fulbright Program. Currently, 50 commissions are active, 47 of which are funded jointly by the United States and the respective government. Each commission or foundation has a board, which is composed of an equal number of Americans and citizens of the participating nation.

Some Fulbright programs are administered directly by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Others are administered with the assistance of **cooperating agencies**. (Contact addresses and telephone numbers for each cooperating agency are provided on page four of this fact sheet.) A foreign citizen interested in the Fulbright Program should contact the Fulbright Commission or Foundation in his home country or, where no commission exists, the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy.

Fulbright Grant Categories

The term "Fulbright Program" encompasses a variety of exchange programs, including both individual and institutional grants.

The **Fulbright U.S. Student Program** offers fellowships for U.S. graduating college seniors, graduate students, young professionals and artists to study abroad for one academic year. In academic year 2007-2008, more than 1,450 Americans are studying abroad with either full or partial support from the Fulbright Program.

The **Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships (ETA) Program**, an element of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, places U.S. students as English teaching assistants in schools or universities overseas, thus improving foreign students' English language abilities and knowledge of the United States while enhancing their own language skills and knowledge of the host country. ETAs may also pursue individual study/research plans in addition to their teaching responsibilities.

The **Fulbright Foreign Student Program** enables graduate students, young professionals and artists from abroad to research and study in the United States for one year or longer. Approximately 1,650 new awards are awarded to foreign graduate students for support at U.S. universities, and some 1,300 renewal awards are also made annually.

The **Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program**, a component of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program, provides young teachers of English as a Foreign Language the opportunity to refine their teaching skills and broaden their knowledge of American culture and customs while strengthening the instruction of foreign languages at colleges and universities in the United States.

The **International Fulbright Science and Technology Award**, a component of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program, is for doctoral study at prestigious U.S. institutions in science, technology, or engineering for up to 40 outstanding foreign students.

The **Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program** sends approximately 1,100 American scholars and professionals per year to approximately 130 countries, where they lecture and/or conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields.

The **Fulbright Specialists Program**, a short-term complement to the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program, sends U.S. faculty and professionals to serve as expert consultants on curriculum, faculty development, institutional planning and related subjects at overseas academic institutions for a period of 2 to 6 weeks.

The **Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program** provides grants to approximately 850 foreign scholars from over 100 countries to lecture and/or conduct postdoctoral research at U.S. institutions for an academic semester to a full academic year.

The **Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (SIR) Program** enables U.S. colleges and universities to host foreign academics to lecture on a wide range of subject fields for a semester or academic year. Preference is given to institutions developing an international agenda and/or serving a minority audience, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges, small liberal arts colleges and community colleges. Approximately 50 grants are awarded annually.

The **Fulbright Visiting Specialists Program: Direct Access to the Muslim World**, a component of the Visiting Scholar Program, helps U.S. higher education institutions and communities enrich their understanding of Islamic civilization and culture as well as social, political and economic developments in the Muslim world. Fulbright Visiting Specialists, who are matched with U.S. institutions for a period of 3 to 6 weeks, lecture or teach short courses, assist with program and curriculum development, interact with students and participate in public outreach programs with community groups, local schools and civic organizations.

The new **Fulbright Interfaith Community Action Program** is designed to foster the development of more peaceful and productive dialogue and action across religious and cultural boundaries. The scholars engage in a semester-long U.S. exchange experience that includes collaborative learning centered on interfaith and intercultural dialogue and collaboration.

The **Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program** involves one-on-one exchanges of approximately 450 administrators and teachers from K-12 schools, community colleges and four-year institutions. A small number of one-way assignments are also made. The program operates between the United States and 30 countries worldwide.

The **Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program** brings outstanding mid-career professionals from countries in various stages of development to the United States for a year of professional development and non-degree academic work at the graduate level. Grants are awarded in various social and public policy fields. Nearly 3,900 fellows from approximately 156 countries have participated in the program since its inception in 1978. During the 2007-2008 academic year, there are 173 Humphrey Fellows from 85 countries in the United States.

A portion of the Fulbright Program, funded at approximately \$12.6 million annually, is a Congressional appropriation to the **United States Department of Education** for the **Fulbright-Hays Program**. These grants are awarded to individual American K-14 teachers and administrators, pre-doctoral students and post-doctoral faculty, as well as to U.S. institutions and organizations. Funding supports research and training efforts overseas, which focus on non-western foreign languages and world area studies.

The **U.S. Fulbright Association** is a private, non-profit organization started by U.S. alumni of the Fulbright Program in 1977. It is one of approximately 70 national Fulbright Alumni associations worldwide. The U.S. Fulbright Association is committed to fostering international awareness and understanding through advocating increased worldwide support for Fulbright exchanges, enriching the Fulbright experience and facilitating lifelong interaction among alumni and current participants. Currently the membership includes nearly 10,000 alumni and friends of the Fulbright Program. Forty-seven affiliated chapters are located throughout the United States. Membership in the association is open to former Fulbright grantees, as well as those who support the ideals of the Fulbright Program but were not grantees themselves. For additional information, contact the Fulbright Association at 202-347-5543. The U.S. Fulbright Association's website is <http://www.fulbright.org>.

FULBRIGHT PROGRAM(S)

U.S. Student Program
Foreign Student Program (general information only)

Foreign students from the Middle East and North Africa

Junior Faculty from Central and Latin America

U.S. Scholar Program
Visiting Scholar Program
Scholar-in-Residence Program
Visiting Specialists Program
Senior Specialists Program
New Century Scholars Program

Teacher Exchange Program

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowships Program

Fulbright-Hays Programs

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POINT OF CONTACT

Institute of International Education (IIE)
809 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017-3580
Telephone: 212-883-8200
Website: www.iie.org; www.us.fulbrightonline.org;
www.foreign.fulbrightonline.org; www.flta.fulbrightonline.org

America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc.
(AMIDEAST)
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: 202-776-9600
Website: www.amideast.org

LASPAU: Academic and Professional Program for the
Americas
25 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138-6095
Telephone: 617-495-5255
Website: www.laspau.harvard.edu

Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES)
3007 Tilden Street, NW, Suite 5L
Washington, DC 20008-3009
Telephone: 202-686-4000
Website: www.cies.org

Graduate School, USDA
600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 320
Washington, D.C. 20024-2520
Telephone: 202-314-3520
Website: www.fulbrightexchanges.org

United States Department of State
Humphrey Program and University Linkages
301 Fourth Street, SW, Room 349, SA-44
Washington, D.C. 20547
Telephone: 202-453-8891
Web: www.exchanges.state.gov/education/hhh

United States Department of Education
International Education Programs Service
1990 K Street, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20006-8521
Telephone: 202-502-7700
Web: www.ed.gov/HEP/iegps